

Climate Emergency and Environment Working Group Update

1. Background

An informal relaunch meeting of the Working Group was held on Monday 16th March, which was attended by five parish councillors, the Clerk and five members of the public. A report from the meeting was provided to the previous Council meeting on 13th April: <https://derryhillandstudley-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Climate-and-Environment-WG-Update-13Apr26.pdf>.

A further Working Group meeting was held on Monday 20th April. This meeting prioritised the ideas and agreed actions to progress, based on the structure of the following four strands:

- **Raise awareness** and sign-post residents to more sustainable ways of living.
- Make a positive difference to our local environment with **practical nature recovery projects**.
- **Support the transition to net zero** carbon within the parish.
- **Engage with and support wider initiatives**, such as Wiltshire Council initiatives.

2. Prioritisation

The ideas identified at the previous meeting were prioritised into short, medium and long-term, as below:

Strand	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term
Raising Awareness	Survey of Residents Regular Column in Inspire Evening talks in village hall	Advice Guide Green Homes Weekend Outside Activities (e.g. bat walk)	Events
Practical Nature Recovery Projects	Bowood Sports Ground – wildflower meadow Himalayan Balsam – Studley Hill / Pudding Brook	Bat Project Solar Farm delivery of environmental commitments	Wilts & Berks Canal projects Wildlife Corridor project Collaboration with landowners
Supporting the Transition to Net Zero	Public EV Sharing Point Promote Solar Farm Community Ownership		Thermal Cameras (next winter)
Wider Engagement	Sustainable Calne Bremzero Avon Needs Trees Wilts & Berks Canal Wiltshire Wildlife Trust	Wiltshire Council Wiltshire Climate Alliance	

3. Actions

The following actions were agreed:

Raising Awareness

1. Develop online survey.
2. Article in June edition of inSPIRE to publicise online survey.
3. Develop programme of village hall talks (to follow survey).
4. Identify a better name for the working group.

Nature Recovery Projects

1. Bowood Sports Ground – wildflower meadow planting. (Phase 1 sowing undertaken on 1st May in conjunction with the Best Kept Village Competition.)
2. Himalayan Balsam – scout out the route of the ditch/brook and make contact with landowners, ahead of the correct season.
3. Bat Survey – initial transect survey to be organised with Wiltshire Bat Group.
4. Wildlife Corridor Project – initial desktop work to be started.

Transition to Net Zero

1. Follow up with Wiltshire Council EV Infrastructure team on charging point for the village.
2. Follow up with Zero North Wilts to check arrangements for Solar Farm Community Ownership opportunity.

Wider Engagement

1. Points of contact identified for the Working Group with Sustainable Calne, BremZero, Avon Needs Trees, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Wilts & Berks Canal Trust and Eden Renewables.

4. Next Steps

The next meeting has been arranged for Monday 22nd June at 7:30pm, timed to follow completion of the online survey.

5. Recommendation

That the Report be noted.